WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method in a communications system having a first terminal device and a second terminal device, said method recognizing an off-hook condition of said second terminal device at a two-wire subscriber line in a switching center, comprising the steps of:

acquiring a loop d.c. of a two-wire subscriber line with a first terminal device working in a first frequency band and comparing said acquired loop d.c. to a threshold, thus recognizing an off-hook condition of said first terminal device; and

comparing said loop d.c. to a second threshold that is higher than said first threshold by a minimally required current level in operating said first terminal device.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein one of said first terminal device and said second terminal device is an analog terminal device and the other terminal device is a digital or data terminal device.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said first threshold is approximately 10 mA.

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein a d.c. resistance of said digital or data terminal device is determined such that is corresponds to that of an analog terminal device at least at a beginning of an off-hook condition.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein said d.c. resistance is 300 Ω.

6. A method according to claim 4 , further comprising the step of:

lowering said d.c. resistance of said digital or data terminal device after recognition of said off-hook condition at said digital or data termite device and a beginning of a data transmission, to approximately 5 mA with an active current source.